Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for producing a recombinant protein product under the control of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter, comprising: (a) introducing an expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of ~~an~~the inducible promoter into a bacterial host cell that is genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of an inducer of the inducible promoter ~~into the host cell~~; and (b) inducing expression of the product with the inducer.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the inducer is arabinose.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the host cell cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, [[2,]] 3 or 4, wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method of claim 5, wherein the host cell is deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The method of claim 5, wherein the host cell is deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the host cell is deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of recovering the product from the induced host cells.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A bacterial host cell that is deficient in one or more of the active transport systems for an inducer of an inducible promoter, wherein the host cell contains a recombinant expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The host cell of claim 10, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The host cell of claim 11, where the inducer is arabinose.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The host cell of claim 12, wherein the host cell cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The host cell of claim 10, 11, 12, or 13, wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The host cell of claim 14, wherein the host cell is deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The host cell of claim 14, wherein the host cell is deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The host cell of claim 14, wherein the host cell is deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of producing a recombinant protein product under the control of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter, and synchronously inducing expression of the product comprising: (a) culturing bacterial host cells that are genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of an inducer of ~~an~~the inducible promoter into the host cells, wherein the host cells contain an expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter; and (b) inducing expression of the product with a concentration of inducer effective to synchronously induce the expression of the product by the host cells.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of claim [[19]]18, wherein the inducer is arabinose.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20, wherein the host cells cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim 18, [[19,]] 20, or 21, wherein the host cells are *E. coli*.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of claim 22, wherein the host cells are deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method of claim 22, wherein the host cells are deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein the host cells are deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of reducing bacterial cell growth inhibition induced by an inducer of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter, comprising: (a) culturing bacterial host cells that are genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of the inducer into the host cells, wherein the host cells contain an expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter; and (b) inducing expression of the product with a concentration of inducer effective to induce the expression of the product in the host cells, but not effective to inhibit growth of the cells as compared with that in transport-proficient cells.

Claim 27 (cancelled).

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method of claim [[27]]26, wherein the inducer is arabinose.

Claim 29 (original): The method of claim 28, wherein the host cells cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The method of claim 26, [[27,]] 28 or 29, wherein the host cells are *E. coli*.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The method of claim 30, wherein the host cells are deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The method of claim 30, wherein the host cells are deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 33 (original): The method of claim 30, wherein the host cells are deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method of increasing yield of a recombinant protein product comprising: (a) culturing bacterial host cells that are genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of an inducer of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter and ~~into the host cells,~~ wherein the host cells contain an expression vector encoding the recombinant protein product under the control of ~~an~~the inducible promoter; and (b) inducing expression of the product with a concentration of inducer effective to increase the yield of the host cells or the product.

Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 34, wherein the yield of the host cells and the product is increased.

Claim 36 (cancelled).

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method of claim [[36]]34, wherein the inducer is arabinose.

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 37, wherein the host cells cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The method of claim 34, 35, [[36,]] 37 or 38, wherein the host cells are *E. coli*.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): The method of claim 39, wherein the host cells are deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): The method of claim 39, wherein the host cells are deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 39, wherein the host cells are deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A method for producing a recombinant protein product under the control of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter, comprising: (a) culturing a bacterial host cell that is genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of an inducer of ~~an~~ the inducible promoter into the host cell, wherein the host cell contains an expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter; and (b) inducing expression of the product with the inducer.

Claim 44 (cancelled).

Claim 45 (currently amended): The method of claim [[44]]43, wherein the inducer is arabinose.

Claim 46 (original): The method of claim 45, wherein the host cell cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The method of claim 43, [[44,]]45 or 46, wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): The method of claim 47, wherein the host cell is deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded b the *araE* gene.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): The method of claim 47, wherein the host cell is deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 50 (original): The method of claim 47, wherein the host cell is deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 51 (original): The method of claim 18, 26, 34 or 43 further comprising a step of recovering the product from the induced host cells.